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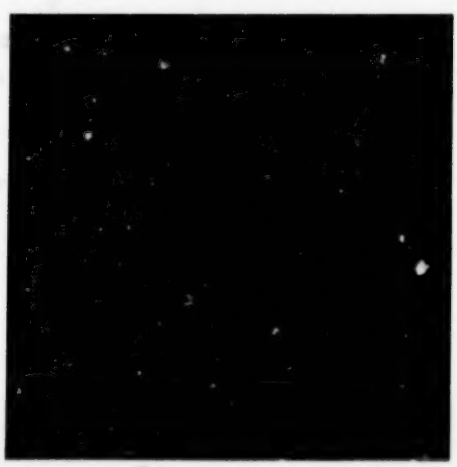

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Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Sixty-sixth meeting
Geneva, 6 February 2014
Item 7 of the provisional agenda
Decisions on matters relating to the Committee on Environmental Policy

Draft Decision

Programme of work of the Environment subprogramme for the biennium 2014–2015

1. At its nineteenth session (Geneva, 22–25 October 2013), the Committee on Environmental Policy adopted the programme of work of the ECE Environment subprogramme for the period 2014–2015 as contained in ECE/CEP/2013/3.

2. The Executive Committee hereby approves the programme of work for 2014-2015 as adopted by the Committee on Environmental Policy.

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Decisions on matters relating to the Committee on Environmental Policy

Draft Decision

Establishment of the coordination mechanism for the development of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in the form of the Group of Friends of SEIS

1. At its nineteenth session (Geneva, 22–25 October 2013), the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) conducted a mid-term review to assess the progress in implementation of the main outcomes of the Astana Ministerial Conference, including the establishment of a regular process of environmental assessment and development of the SEIS. The review concluded that progress was rather slow. In spite of an increasing number of SEIS and regular reporting-related initiatives, the landscape remains fragmented and there is a lack of coordination between these activities. Understanding SEIS and its benefits in support of regular assessment and reporting, as well as for increasing the level of environmental awareness and education, are both a top priority and key challenge throughout the region.

2. Following the recommendation by its Bureau, the CEP agreed to establish a coordination mechanism in the form of a "Group of Friends of SEIS", in which the main SEIS stakeholders would participate with a view to strengthening the CEP's work on SEIS at the political level and the work of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment at the technical level. In this regard, the CEP approved the Group's Terms of Reference (as herewith contained in Annex I)

3. The Group of Friends of SEIS will be chaired by the Chair of the CEP and serviced by the ECE secretariat. The Group will be composed of representatives of: Governments; the CEP Bureau; the Bureau of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment; governing or subsidiary bodies of relevant ECE multilateral environmental agreements; relevant international and regional organizations and institutions; and civil society organizations.

4. The servicing of the group will be funded through existing regular ECE secretariat staff resources. At the same time, extrabudgetary funds will be mobilized to cover participation costs of eligible members of the group, as well as resources to conduct

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coordination missions with the main stakeholders. The extrabudgetary resources required (herewith attached as Annex II) will be mobilized through the CEP and its Bureau.

5. The Executive Committee hereby approves the establishment of the Group of Friends of SEIS and its Terms of Reference (herewith contained in Annex I).

Annex I

Terms of Reference for the Group of Friends of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS)

1. Ministers decided at the Seventh "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference (Astana, 21–23 September 2011) to establish a regular process of environmental assessment and to develop a Shared Environment Information System (SEIS) across the region in order to keep the pan-European environment under review. These terms of reference define the modalities of a coordination mechanism, in the form of a Group of Friends of the Shared Environmental Information System (Friends of SEIS).

2. The main purpose of this mechanism is to provide a platform for the exchange of information about ongoing and planned activities relevant to SEIS development, and to build synergies among and join the efforts of the main interested stakeholders.

3. Friends of SEIS will be led by the Chair of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP). The following bodies and organizations are invited to nominate members to the Group:

(a) The CEP Bureau;

(b) The Bureau of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment;

(c) Governing or subsidiary bodies of relevant United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) multilateral environmental agreements;

(d) The European Commission;

(e) The European Environment Agency;

(f) The United Nations Environment Programme;

(g) The World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe;

(h) The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;

(i) The Regional Environmental Centres;

(j) The European ECO Forum.

ECE member States are invited to nominate their members to the Group, based on a balanced geographical representation. All countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia are strongly encouraged to nominate their members to the Group. The CEP Chair may decide to invite representatives of other bodies and organizations, as necessary.

4. Friends of SEIS will meet when necessary (once a year on average). Preferably, the Group's meetings will be organized back-to-back with meetings of other bodies (e.g CEP, the CEP Bureau, the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment). The Group shall keep its meetings to the minimum necessary and shall work as much as possible by electronic means (e.g. e-mail, teleconference).

5. At its first meeting, Friends of SEIS will agree on a plan of their concrete activities. Such a plan shall take into account SEIS-related developments, including, among others, the SEIS-related documents submitted to the nineteenth session of CEP (ECE/CEP/2013/15, ECE/CEP/2013/18 and ECE/CEP/2013/13). Specifically, Friends of SEIS should aim to provide answers to the following two questions to the twentieth session

of CEP in 2014: (a) How to monitor and evaluate progress: what should be the clear targets and performance indicators for the development of SEIS?; (b) How to organize and shape the regular assessment process taking into consideration the benefits of SEIS?

6. Friends of SEIS will be serviced by the ECE secretariat. Conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Geneva will be provided for the meetings of Friends of SEIS. The working language will be English.

7. Donors will be invited to support the work of Friends of SEIS, including the travel of eligible members, as well as, in case of need, the travel of ECE staff to participate in and support the organization of meetings held outside of Geneva.

8. These terms of reference will cover the biennium 2014–2015. CEP may decide to extend them at its session in late 2015.

9. The Friends of SEIS will regularly inform CEP on the implementation of its mandate.

Annex II

Estimated extrabudgetary resource requirements for the ECE secretariat to support the work of the Group of Friends of SEIS

From January 2014 to November 2015

(in United States dollars; rounded)

Object of expenditure	*Unit*	*Unit cost*	*No. of Units*	*Total*
Travel of eligible members of the group in 2014	member-mission	2,000	15	30,000
Travel of eligible members of the group in 2015	member-mission	2,000	15	30,000
Travel on official business by ECE staff to coordination meetings in 2014	member-mission	2,000	2	4,000
Travel on official business by ECE staff to coordination meetings in 2015	member-mission	2,000	2	4,000
1. Net total				**68,000**
2. Programme support costs (13%)				8,800
3. GRAND TOTAL				**76,800**

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Sixty-seventh meeting
Geneva, 5 March 2014
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh meeting

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, in Conference Room V, starting at 3 p.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda.

Formal segment

2. Chairman's conclusions from the last meeting.
3. Decisions on matters relating to the Committee on Housing and Land Management.

Informal segment

4. Important new developments: briefing by the Executive Secretary.
5. Revised mandates and terms of reference of the Committee on Trade and the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration.
6. Strategic framework 2016-2017.
7. Further discussions on the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT).
8. Other business.

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Executive Committee

Sixty-seventh meeting
Geneva, 5 March 2014
Item 3 of the provisional agenda
Decisions on matters relating to the Committee on Housing and Land Management

Draft decision

Decision approving the renewal of the mandate and terms of reference of the Working Party on Land Administration under the Committee on Housing and Land Management[1]

1. At its seventy-second session (Geneva, 3-4 October 2011), the Committee on Housing and Land Management recommended that the Executive Committee approve the renewal of the mandate of the Working Party on Land Administration until the end of 2015, with its revised Terms of Reference (ECE/HBP/2011/4).

2. The Executive Committee hereby approves the renewal of the mandate of the Working Party on Land Administration and its terms of reference with further amendments as contained in the Annex, until 31 December 2015.

[1] The mandate and terms of reference mentioned in this decision replace the previous mandate and terms of reference for the Working Party on Land Administration and previous Executive Committee decision related to this mandate and terms of reference. During the review of the 2005 ECE Reform, EXCOM agreed that existing subsidiary bodies of ECE could continue to function without further approval for their extension from EXCOM, until the end of the review process (Item 5 of EXCOM/CONCLU/45). Thus no request for renewal was submitted in the period 2011-2013.

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Annex

Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Working Party on Land Administration

1. The Working Party on Land Administration is mandated until 31 December 2015 to help achieve the objectives and carry out the activities set out below, under the auspices of the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management.

2. The overall objectives of the Working Party are the promotion and improvement of land administration and land management in the ECE region. The Working Party aims at supporting security of tenure, introducing and improving cadastre and land registry, and developing real estate markets. The members of the Working Party are the national land-administration authorities and related authorities from the member States of ECE.

3. The activities of the Working Party are based on cooperation and the exchange of experience among all countries of the ECE region, through: seminars and workshops organized in ECE member countries; land-administration reviews; participation in the development of country profiles on housing and land management organized by the Committee on Housing and Land Management; publications, and when appropriate, electronic versions, and dissemination of studies and guidelines on specific land-administration and land-management topics; benchmarking and preparation of inventories of land-administration systems in the ECE region; and the provision of policy advice and expert assistance. In particular, the Working Party deals with:

(a) Land Administration

General objectives: Improving the acquisition, registration, storage, maintenance and dissemination of information on real property rights as well as the geometric and physical characteristics of land.

Areas of work: Documentation of ownership rights, leases and mortgages, land cover, land-use and land-use restrictions, geo-referenced addresses; transfer of ownership rights; adjudication of land rights; solving of land disputes; cadastral mapping; database activities; real property valuation; personal data protection; re-use of land-administration public data; pricing of services; cost-recovery requirements; development of professional skills; taxation of land and real properties; monitoring of real estate markets; development of e-services; participation of land-administration authorities in e-government programmes.

(b) Land management

General objectives: Contributing to the formulation, implementation and monitoring of land policy and geo-data policy (including related financial policy issues); promotion of sustainable land management programmes and projects.

Areas of work: Providing advice in support of implementation of geo-spatial data policy; contributing to sustainable development of urban and rural areas with particular focus on land consolidation, the protection of natural resources and the further strengthening of good governance.

4. The Working Party shall periodically review its work plan to ensure that its concrete and results-oriented activities (which are undertaken to achieve the objectives in the areas of work set out above) are coherent with the work of the Committee on Housing and Land Management and within the overall objectives of ECE.

5. The Working Party coordinates its concrete and results-oriented activities in close contact with other international governmental and non-governmental organizations active in related fields, such as the United Nations Programme on Human Settlements (UN-HABITAT), other United Nations regional commissions, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Union institutions concerned with land management activities (e.g. the INSPIRE Initiative, the EULIS Project), the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the Permanent Committee on Cadastre (PCC), the International Centre of Registration Law (CINDER), the European Umbrella Organisation for Geographic Information (EUROGI), EuroGeographics and the European Land Registry Association (ELRA).

6. The Working Party cooperates with international financial and donor organizations that fund programmes and projects related to land administration in countries of the ECE region, such as the European Union, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the World Bank.

7. The Working Party encourages partnership among the public and private sectors and their involvement in managing land resources and capacity-building for sustainable development. It encourages cooperation with educational institutions in order to enhance capacity-building activities.

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Geneva, 5 March 2014
Item 3 of the provisional agenda
Decisions on matters relating to the Committee on Housing and Land Management

Draft decision

Decision approving the renewal of the mandate and terms of reference of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group under the Committee on Housing and Land Management[1]

1. At its seventy-fourth session (Geneva, 7 and 9 October 2013), the Committee on Housing and Land Management recommended that the Executive Committee approve the renewal of the mandate of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group for one year.

2. The Executive Committee hereby approves the renewal of the mandate of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group and its terms of reference with further amendments, as contained in the Annex, until 31 December 2014.

[1] The mandate and terms of reference in this decision replaces those previously approved by the Executive Committee. During the review of the 2005 ECE Reform, EXCOM agreed that existing subsidiary bodies of ECE could continue to function without further approval for their extension from EXCOM, until the end of the review process (Item 5 of EXCOM/CONCLU/45). Thus no request for renewal was submitted in the period 2011-2013.

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Annex

Mandate and Terms of Reference of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group

I. Mandate

1. The Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM) is mandated to act until the end of 2014 as an advisory body to the Committee on Housing and Land Management. It also provides advice to the Working Party on Land Administration.

2. The objective of the Advisory Group is to support improved planning and implementation by member States in the areas outlined below, based upon policy tools and recommendations issued by the Committee and the Working Party and supported by the Advisory Group:

- Efficiency of services
- Prerequisites for development of sound real estate markets
- Good governance
- Sustainable financing
- Transparency and advanced financial products
- Property valuation
- Social housing
- Training and capacity-building

3. The Advisory Group creates no additional financial implications for the United Nations.

II. Activities

4. The concrete, results-oriented activities of the Advisory Group include:

- To advise the Committee and the Working Party on their activities and ECE member States on practical arrangements for the implementation of policy recommendations and specific activities to achieve optimal results at the country level in the areas listed above.
- To contribute to the work of the Committee and the Working Party through capacity-building activities and dissemination of information, good practices and know-how in ECE member countries on the above policy areas as linked with practical activities and projects in individual countries.
- To expand the network of experts available to support relevant activities through networking with global and regional financial institutions, lender and donor organizations, non-governmental organizations and the business community, with a view to making its activities and assistance to ECE member countries more efficient and practical.

5. The Advisory Group will also, according to the needs expressed by member States and the decisions taken by the Committee:

(a) Provide practical advice on the challenges addressed by the Committee and the Working Party to improve the environment for real estate investments, real estate markets and housing development.

(b) Promote policy frameworks and best practices that support sustainable real estate markets including best practices in promoting investment in national real estate sectors in individual countries.

(c) Undertake studies and advisory missions, organize seminars and training workshops, draft policy models and guidelines, collect data, and provide information and training kits.

(d) Develop and carry out specific projects, as agreed by the Committee Bureau and subject to available funding.

(e) Assist countries in training and capacity-building within the real estate and land administration sectors. When appropriate, participate as an expert in advisory missions and in workshops, and provide expertise for preparing documentation and studies.

(f) Promote public-private partnerships in land administration.

(g) Collect good practices and experiences on land administration reform in the ECE region.

6. The activities of the Advisory Group contribute to the programme of work of the Committee and the Working Party. The Advisory Group may put forward proposals for activities within this framework according to its terms of reference. The final decision on activities to be carried out by the Advisory Group remains with the Committee. The Committee is expected to benefit from the additional expertise on real estate markets that will be provided.

III. Membership and composition of the Group

7. The Advisory Group consists of experts from the private sector, financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, and professional associations dealing with the promotion of the real estate market, financial services and land administration. The Bureau of the Committee invites experts to become members of the Advisory Group in their personal capacity; the Advisory Group can propose suitable candidates.

8. The composition of the Group should be in line with the following rules and principles:

(a) The Advisory Group should consist of not more than nine people, who will be invited in their personal capacity; initially the Advisory Group can be based on the current six members.

(b) Functional and geographical representation should be considered in the selection process.

(c) A Chair and one or two Vice-Chairs will be elected.

(d) The composition should relate to the substantive needs of the Committee, as reflected in its programme of work.

(e) Experts from non-governmental organizations and the private sector are eligible to become members.

IV. Modalities of operation

9. The Advisory Group operates in accordance with the guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within ECE (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1) and the Guidelines for procedures and practices for ECE bodies (E/2013/37-E/ECE/1464, Appendix III).

10. The Advisory Group reports to and is supervised by the Committee. It works in close cooperation with the secretariat and the Bureau of the Committee and participates in Bureau meetings as observers. Attendance at such meetings is normally delegated to the Chair or Vice-Chairs of the Advisory Group. Other members will be invited as necessary. The secretariat provides the necessary administrative support to the Advisory Group's activities once they have been agreed by the Committee.

11. The Advisory Group identifies resources required for implementing its work plan. For this purpose it may raise funds and solicit in-kind contributions to support its activities, in compliance with United Nations rules and regulations.

12. Advisory Group members may involve any organization or expert necessary to assist them in their work. Before any engagement, however, the Group shall give prior notice to the Bureau and to the ECE secretariat about the person they intend to use and give the justification for their involvement.

13. Examples of such organizations and experts who may assist in carrying out projects include:

- Government organizations
- NGOs, real estate professional organizations and international bodies
- Financial organizations
- Mixed organizations constituted by public-private partnerships
- International experts with specific and direct knowledge regarding the individual problems and needs of recipient countries.